

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/725,305

Examiner

Brian E. Pellegrino

Applicant(s)

RALPH ET AL.

Art Unit

3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview summary of 3/9/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-11 and 13-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/9/07.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


BRIAN E. PELLEGRINO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Doherty on 3/9/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, in line 4, "thereof" was deleted,

line 5 was edited as follows:

spaced apart relationship such that the inner ~~ones~~ surfaces of said plates

line 6 was edited as follows:

~~surfaces~~ oppose one another, and the outer ~~ones~~ surfaces of said plates

line 7 was edited as follows: "surfaces" was deleted.

line 18 was edited as follows: after the word "which" the clause --- has a depth that tapers along said length, and a width that tapers along said length that--- was added.

Claim 5 was edited as follows, starting at line 3:

said at least one belleville washer comprises a linear groove ~~having a length extending from said locus on said peripheral edge toward said locus which is radially in from said~~

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~~peripheral edge, a depth that tapers along said length, and a width that tapers along said length.~~

In claim 11,

line 3 was edited as follows:

first and second plate members, each having inner and outer plate surfaces

in line 4, "thereof" was deleted,

line 5 was edited as follows:

relationship such that the inner ~~ones~~ surfaces of said plates ~~surfaces~~ oppose

line 6 was edited as follows:

one another, and the outer ~~ones~~ surfaces of said plates ~~surfaces~~ face in

line 21 was edited as follows: after the word "which" the clause --- has a depth that tapers along said length, and a width that tapers along said length that--- was added.

Claim 13 was edited as follows, starting at line 3:

said belleville washer comprises a linear groove ~~having a length extending from said locus on said peripheral edge toward said locus which is radially in from said peripheral edge, a depth that tapers along said length, and a width that tapers along said length.~~

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 12/18/06 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of

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6,669,730 and 6,863,688 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3,5-11,13-19 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian E. Pellegrino whose telephone number is 571-272-4756. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9am to 6:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott, can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TC 3700, AU 3738

BRIAN E. PELLEGRINO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

